DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE Speed Reader. MicroSIFT Courseware Evaluation.
INSTITUTION Northwest Regional Educational Lab., Portland, Oreg.
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DESCRIPTORS *Computer Assisted Instruction; *Computer Programs; Drills (Practice); Microcomputers; Reading Comprehension; Reading Improvement; *Reading Rate, Secondary Education; *Speed Reading
IDENTIFIERS Apple II; Courseware Evaluation; Microcomputer Software and Info for Teachers; PF Project; Software Evaluation; *Software Reviews

ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT (Except for the Evaluation Summary Table): VERSION: Copyright 1981. PRODUCER: Davidson and Associates, 6069 Groveoak Place #12, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. EVALUATION COMPLETED: January, 1983 by the Oakland ISD of Pontiac, Michigan. COST: $70.00. ABILITY LEVEL: Secondary. SUBJECT: Reading. MEDIUM OF TRANSFER: 5-1/4" flexible disk. REQUIRED HARDWARE: Apple II, 48K, single disk drive. REQUIRED SOFTWARE: DOS 3.3, Applesoft. INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSE: Remediation, standard instruction. INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUE: Drill and practice. INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE: (INFERRED) To increase reading speed. INSTRUCTIONAL PREREQUISITES: None. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE: Using program and data diskettes, the user is given various exercises designed to improve reading speed. Documentation summarizes disk program content for each exercise and prescribes passage through package. ESTIMATED STUDENT TIME REQUIRED: 30 minutes, twice a week. POTENTIAL USES: Using this package in the classroom is difficult since it requires a quiet atmosphere for concentration. However, it covers valuable reading skills (rate and efficiency) which are more easily taught via the computer than via the former tachistoscope. Speed reading is most appropriate for individual or small group usage, which makes it excellent for secondary students in a reading/study skills lab. The program can be used by average or above-average secondary students who wish to independently improve their reading rate and comprehension. With more teacher involvement and direction, remedial students could benefit from some of the drill exercises. MAJOR STRENGTHS: Once the learner understands the purpose and operation of the program, he/she can run it easily himself each time--no more teacher guidance would be needed to advance with the program. This program forces the learner to "keep up" better than a print speed reading program can. In other words, the learner cannot "cheat". The practices are to be limited to one per day (maximum time of 30 minutes) and as few as two sessions per week. Thus, boredom or "burn-out" probably will not occur. The package has good manual and user documentation. Its content is accurate and feedback on the student's progress is accurate and immediate. Exam units are included. MAJOR WEAKNESSES: The text selections are not motivational or plentiful. They are void of explanations and activities for adjusting speed/method of reading for specific content. EVALUATION SUMMARY: Evaluators indicated they would use or recommend use of this package with little or no change. (Author)

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ED232621

Speed Reader

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Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

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COST: $70.00

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INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSE: Remediation, standard instruction
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INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE: (INFERRED)
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INSTRUCTIONAL PREREQUISITES: None.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE: Using program and data diskettes, the user is given various exercises designed to improve reading speed. Documentation summarizes disk program content for each exercise and prescribes passage through package.

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EVALUATION SUMMARY

SA	A	D	SD	NA	
	•				Content is accurate.
	•				Content has educational value.
	•				Content is free of stereotypes.
	•				Purpose of package is well defined.
	•				Package achieves defined purpose.
	•				Content presentation is clear and logical.
	•				Difficulty level is appropriate to audience.
	•				Graphics/sound/color are used appropriately.
	•				Use of package is motivational.
	•				Student creativity is effectively stimulated.
	•				Feedback is effectively employed.

SA	A	D	SD	NA	
	•				Learner controls rate and sequence.
		•			Instruction integrates with prior learning.
		•			Learning can be generalized.
	•				User support materials are comprehensive.
	•				User support materials are effective.
	•				Information displays are effective.
	•				Users can operate easily and independently.
	•				Teachers can employ package easily.
	•				Computer capabilities are used appropriately.
	•				Program is reliable in normal use.

SA - Strongly Agree A-Agree D-Disagree SD - Strongly Disagree NA - Not Applicable

IR 020009

Evaluators indicated they would use or recommend use of this package with little or no change.

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This evaluation is based on the evaluations of three or more reviewers who are representative of potential users of the courseware package.

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